



AG UPDATE

USDA/NASS Colorado Field Office
PO Box 150969
Lakewood, CO 80215

Phone: (303)236-2300 1-800-392-3202 **FAX:** (303)236-2299 1-800-643-6885

Released: July 23, 2009

To access NASS and Colorado reports:
<http://www.nass.usda.gov>

Vol. 29 No. 14

Contents of This Issue

- ▶Onions - 2009 Crop
- ▶Crop Production
- ▶Milk Production

ONIONS

Colorado producers expect to harvest 6,300 acres of summer storage onions in 2009, down 16 percent from last year. Wet, muddy fields delayed planting this year, but planting was completed on schedule by the second week of May. By the beginning of July, crop conditions ranged from good to excellent. The first production forecast for Colorado will be released on October 2, 2009.

Production of spring onions in 2009 is forecast at 9.65 million cwt, up 1 percent from last year. The crop is produced on 27,000 harvested acres. The average yield is 358 cwt per acre, 20 cwt above 2008. In California, cool weather delayed harvest. However, sizing and quality of spring onions are reported to be good. In Georgia, the crop is in fair to good condition. Harvest was 85 percent complete by the end of June, non-storage onions is forecast at 10.6 million cwt, up 3 percent from last year. Harvested area covers 17,700 acres, down 9 percent from 2008. In California, yield looks good, however, water availability is a concern for onion growers. In Nevada, the onion crop is developing well due to the arrival of warm temperatures. The crop is reported to be in very good to excellent condition. In New Mexico, quality of the crop is reported to be very good.

Growers expect to harvest 106,810 acres of storage onions this year, up 1 percent from last year. In California, storage onion growers report a good growing season. In Colorado, planting was delayed slightly due to wet May conditions. However, the crop is reported to be in good to excellent condition. In Michigan, field preparation was delayed due to wet weather from late April into early May. Warm and dry conditions in mid-May allowed growers to get caught up. However, cool and cloudy conditions during the first week of June delayed plant growth. In Malheur County, Oregon, planting was delayed due to cool and wet spring conditions. Harvest is expected to be about two weeks behind schedule. In the "Other Area" of Oregon, planting was also delayed due to rainy and cool conditions during spring. However, the onion crop is reported to be in good condition. In Washington, the onion crop was five to seven days behind normal. Some insect

related problems were reported but they were controlled by spraying. Overall, the onion crop looks good.

Onions for Fresh Market 2008-2009 Crops

Crop	Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2008	for 2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	Acres		Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.	
Spring 1/	28,400	27,000	338	358	9,603	9,653
Summer 1/						
Non-Storage	19,400	17,700	533	599	10,344	10,608
Storage 2/						
CA 3/.....	31,300	32,000	425	2/	13,303	2/
CO	7,500	6,300	380	2/	2,850	2/
ID	8,600	8,800	720	2/	6,192	2/
MI	3,600	3,900	280	2/	1,008	2/
NY	10,100	9,500	410	2/	4,141	2/
OR-Malheur	12,200	12,000	710	2/	8,662	2/
OR-Other	9,600	9,600	620	2/	5,952	2/
WA	20,000	21,000	600	2/	12,000	2/
WI	1,100	1,900	300	2/	330	2/
Other	1,690	1,810	497	2/	840	2/
Subtotal	105,690	106,810	523	2/	55,278	2/
Total Summer...	125,090	124,510	525	2/	65,622	2/
U.S.	153,490	151,510	490	2/	75,225	2/

1/ Primarily fresh marketing. 2/ Yield and production for 2009 will be published 10/2/09. 3/ Primarily for processing.

CROP PRODUCTION

JULY 12, 2009

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production in Colorado is now forecast at 88.8 million bushels according to the Colorado Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This is up 10 percent from the June 1 forecast and 56 percent above last year's production. Growers expect to harvest 2.4 million acres this year, up 500,000 acres from 2008. The state's average yield is forecast at 37.0 bushels per acre, 7.0 bushels per acre above the previous year and 2.0 bushel per acre above the June forecast. Excellent growing conditions during June boosted yield potential in most growing areas. **Barley** production is initially forecast at 9.36 million bushels, up 8 percent from the 2008 crop. Acreage harvested is expected to total 78,000 acres, up from 72,000 harvested last year and yield is forecasted at 120.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from last year. **Fall potato** growers in the San Luis Valley planted 56,000 acres this year, down 2 percent from last year. Area for harvest is expected to total 55,800 acres which is 1,100 acres less than 2008. The first 2009 fall potato production forecast will be released November 10, 2009.

Summer potato production is expected to reach 1.44 million cwt for 2009 down 5 percent from the 2008 crop. Growers expect to harvest 3,800 acres this year, down 7 percent from the previous year. Average yield is initially forecast at 380 cwt per acre, 10 cwt above last year's yield. Colorado's 2009 **peach** crop is initially forecast at 13,000 tons, down 1,000 tons from last year. Spring freeze damage was average depending on location and available freeze protection devices. Irrigation water supplies on the Western Slope have been adequate this year.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.52 billion bushels, up 2 percent from last month but down 18 percent from 2008. The U.S. yield is forecast at 43.8 bushels per acre, down 0.1 bushel from last month and down 3.4 bushels from last year. The area expected to be harvested for grain totals 34.8 million acres, unchanged from the *Acreage* report released on June 30, 2009 but down 12 percent from last year. Hard Red Winter, at 903 million bushels, is up 4 percent from a month ago. Soft Red Winter, at 414 million bushels, is down slightly from the last forecast. White Winter is down slightly from last month and now totals 208 million bushels. Of this total, 22.4 million bushels are Hard White and 186 million bushels are Soft White.

Durum wheat production is forecast at 81.2 million bushels, down 4 percent from 2008. The U.S. yield is forecast at 33.1 bushels per acre, 0.3 bushel above last year. Expected area to be harvested for grain totals 2.45 million acres, unchanged from the *Acreage* report released on June 30, 2009 but down 5 percent from last year. Other Spring wheat production is forecast at 506 million bushels, 7 percent below 2008. The expected area to be harvested for grain totals 13.2 million acres, unchanged from the *Acreage* report released on June 30, 2009 but down 2 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is forecast at 38.3 bushels per acre, down 2.2 bushels from 2008. Of the total production, 470 million bushels are Hard Red Spring wheat, down 8 percent from last year.

Oats production is forecast at 91.3 million bushels, 3 percent above last year's record low 88.6 million bushels. If realized, this will be the third lowest production on record. Based on conditions as of July 1, the yield is forecast at 64.0 bushels per acre, up 0.5 bushel from 2008. Growers expect to harvest 1.43 million acres for grain or seed, up 2 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the second smallest harvested area on record.

Barley production for 2009 is forecast at 203 million bushels, down 15 percent from 2008. Based on conditions as of July 1, the average yield for the United States is forecast at 64.7 bushels per acre, up 1.1 bushels from a year ago. Area harvested for grain or seed, at 3.14 million acres, is down 17 percent from 2008. Record setting yields are expected in Arizona, Utah, and Wyoming, while a record tying yield is expected in Idaho.

The California Freestone crop is forecast at 350,000 tons, down 5 percent from the June 1 forecast and 19 percent below the 2008 crop. Freezing temperatures in early March, along with decreased bearing acres, has resulted in a lower production forecast. Harvest continued during June with Brittney Lane, Crimson Lady, Spring Flame, Earlirich, Sierra Snow, and Ivory Princess being the major varieties.

Area planted to fall potatoes in 2009 is estimated at 932,900 acres, up slightly from the 2008 crop year. Harvested area is forecast at 922,700 acres, also up slightly from 2008. Idaho growers increased planted area 5 percent from last year but these are the lowest acres planted since 1986. As of July 5, crop conditions were rated 95 percent good to excellent. Washington producers planted 6 percent fewer acres than a year ago. Cool, wet conditions delayed planting throughout the State. Significant planting did not begin until early-April but high temperatures late in the month enabled progress to advance quickly. By late-May, virtually the entire crop was in the ground.

Production of summer potatoes is forecast at 14.5 million cwt, up 6 percent from 2008. Harvested area is estimated at 42,500 acres, 5 percent below last year. Average yield is forecast at 341 cwt per acre, up 11 percent from 2008. Production is expected to be up in California, Delaware, Maryland, Missouri, and Virginia. The largest increase was noted in Missouri, where yields were expected to return to normal levels after last year's rainy weather which negatively impacted the crop. In Virginia, timely spring rains and hot temperatures during June allowed for good growth. Crop condition was rated as good to excellent. States forecasting a decrease in production are Colorado, Illinois, New Jersey, and Texas. Texas growers expected the largest decrease in summer potato production, due to the large decline in harvested area. Fewer acres were planted in 2009 due to drought conditions. In Colorado, the crop was progressing slightly behind schedule. Moderate temperatures and frequent afternoon thunderstorms have delayed crop development.

Acres, yield, and production, Colorado and United States, 2008-2009

Area and Crop	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		Unit	Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2008	2009	2008	2009		2008	2009	2008	2009
	1,000 acres		1,000 acres			Units per acre		1,000 units	
Colorado:									
All Corn <u>1/</u>	1,250	1,150	1,080	1,000	Bu.	137.0	5/	147,960	5/
All Sorghum <u>1/</u>	230	210	150	140	Bu.	30.0	5/	4,500	5/
All Wheat.....	2,190	2,630	1,936	2,429	Bu.	30.8	6/	59,700	6/
Winter Wheat.....	2,150	2,600	1,900	2,400	Bu.	30.0	37.0	57,000	88,800
Spring Wheat.....	40	30	36	29	Bu.	75.0	6/	2,700	6/
Oats.....	45	65	7	10	Bu.	70.0	5/	490	5/
Barley	80	80	72	78	Bu.	120.0	120.0	8,640	9,360
Proso Millet.....	270	200	230	4/	Bu.	33.0	4/	7,590	4/
All Hay .....	...	...	1,570	1,600	Tons	2.54	5/	3,981	5/
Alfalfa Hay .....	...	...	820	840	Tons	3.3	5/	2,706	5/
Other Hay .....	...	...	750	760	Tons	1.7	5/	1,275	5/
Sugarbeets.....	33.8	36.3	28.6	36.2	Tons	26.5	5/	758	5/
Dry edible beans	48	50	44	46	Cwt.	1,500	5/	660	5/
Sunflowers, All.....	194	95	162	87	Lbs.	947.0	7/	153,400	7/
Sunflowers, Oil.....	170	80	143	73	Lbs.	900	7/	128,700	7/
Sunflowers, Non-Oil....	24	15	19	14	Lbs.	1,300	7/	24,700	7/
All potatoes.....	61.4	60.0	61.0	59.6	Cwt.	374.0	8/	22,778	8/
Summer potatoes	4.4	4.0	4.1	3.8	Cwt.	370.0	380.0	1,517	1,444
Fall potatoes.....	57.0	56.0	56.9	55.8	Cwt.	375.0	8/	21,338	8/
Apples.....	...	...	...	...	Lbs.	...	...	15,000	5/
Peaches .....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	14	13
United States:									
All Corn <u>1/</u>	85,982	87,035	78,640	80,107	Bu.	153.9	5/	12,101,238	5/
All Sorghum <u>1/</u>	8,284	6,960	7,271	5,968	Bu.	65	5/	472,342	5/
All Wheat <u>2/</u>	63,147	59,775	55,685	50,445	Bu.	44.9	41.9	2,499,524	2,112,342
Winter Wheat.....	46,281	43,448	39,614	34,787	Bu.	47.2	43.8	1,867,903	1,524,771
Spring Wheat.....	14,135	13,772	13,487	13,205	Bu.	40.5	38.3	546,744	506,354
Oats.....	3,217	3,158	1,395	1,426	Bu.	63.5	64.0	88,635	91,277
Barley	4,234	3,627	3,767	3,142	Bu.	63.6	64.7	239,498	203,329
Rye.....	1,260	1,257	269	278	Bu.	29.7	6/	7,979	6/
Proso Millet.....	520	405	460	4/	Bu.	32.3	4/	14,880	4/
All Hay .....	...	...	60,062	60,177	Tons	2.43	5/	145,672	5/
Alfalfa Hay .....	...	...	20,980	20,982	Tons	3.32	5/	69,620	5/
Other Hay .....	...	...	39,082	39,195	Tons	1.95	5/	76,052	5/
Sugarbeets.....	1,090.8	1,172.9	1,004.6	1,130.9	Tons	26.7	5/	26,837	5/
Dry edible beans	1,495.0	1,458.6	1,445.2	1,396.8	Cwt.	1,768	5/	25,558	5/
Sunflowers, All.....	2,516.5	2,098	2,396	1,997	Lbs.	1,429	7/	3,422,840	7/
Sunflowers, Oil.....	2,163	1,784	2,062	1,702.2	Lbs.	1,452	7/	2,993,510	7/
Sunflowers, Non-Oil.....	353.5	314.0	334.0	294.8	Lbs.	1,285	7/	429,330	7/
All potatoes <u>3/</u>	1,058.8	1,061.5	1,045.7	1,047.6	Cwt.	395	8/	412,742	8/
Summer potatoes	47	44	44.8	42.5	Cwt.	306	341	13,694	14,506
Fall potatoes.....	930.5	932.9	921.1	922.7	Cwt.	409	8/	376,386	8/
Soybeans.....	75,718	77,483	74,641	76,547	Bu.	39.6	5/	2,959,174	5/
Apples.....	...	...	...	...	Lbs.	...	...	9,769.3	5/
Peaches .....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	1,133.3	1,071.0
Pears .....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	870.9	5/

1/ Planted for all purposes; harvested for grain. 2/ Includes Durum Wheat. 3/ Includes Winter and Spring Crops. 4/ Jan. 2010. 5/ August 12, 2009. 6/ September 30, 2009. 7/ October 9, 2009. 8/ November 10, 2009.

**MILK PRODUCTION
JUNE 2009**

Milk production in Colorado during June 2009 totaled 249 million pounds, up 1 million pounds from the same period a year earlier. The average number of milk cows for June of this year was 126,000 head, down 2,000 head from June 2008. Production per cow averaged 1,980 pounds for June, up from 1,940 pounds produced a year ago.

Milk production in the 23 major States during June totaled 14.7 billion pounds, down 0.1 percent from June 2008. May revised production at 15.5 billion pounds, was up 0.5 percent from May 2008. The May revision represented an increase of 46 million pounds or 0.3 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,746 pounds for June, 10 pounds above June 2008. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.44 million head, 56,000 head less than June 2008, and 29,000 head less than May 2009. Milk production in the U.S. during the April - June quarter totaled 48.8 billion pounds, up 0.1 percent from the April - June quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.26 million head, 53,000 head less than the same period last year.

who have an immediate need for the data may call this office after 1:15 P.M. on the day of release - toll free 1-800-392-3202. The complete USDA report is also available on the Worldwide Web at: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

- July 24 - Cattle
- July 24 - Cattle on Feed
- July 24 - Livestock Slaughter
- July 24 - Sheep
- July 31 - Agricultural Prices
- August 4 - Land values and Cash Rents
- August 6 - Farm Production

Milk Production, June, 2008-2009

Item	Unit	2008	2009
Colorado:			
Milk Cows <u>1/</u>	1,000 head	128	126
Milk Per Cow <u>2/</u>	Lbs.	1,940	1,980
Production <u>2/</u>	Mil. lbs.	248	249
United States:			
Milk Cows <u>1/</u>	1,000 head	8,500	8,444
Milk Per Cow <u>2/</u>	Lbs.	1,736	1,746
Production <u>2/</u>	Mil. lbs.	14,760	14,741

1/ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

William Meyer
Director

Rodger Ott
Deputy Director

UPCOMING REPORTS

Colorado and U.S. data from most of the following reports will appear in subsequent issues of AG UPDATE. However, those